

From: Andr(00E9)-Francois Landry
To: Microsoft ATR,George W. Bush
Date: 1/23/02 6:06pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The Tunney Act: A confession of shame, and a call to action

Introduction

My name is Jeremy White, and I am the CEO of CodeWeavers, the company most associated with the Wine project. Three years ago, I chose to refocus my company around the Wine project because I believed that Microsoft's stranglehold on the market was sucking all of the joy out of the computing field.

For those of you who don't know, Wine is a project that makes it possible to run Windows application on Linux. If Wine were complete, then the combination of Wine+Linux would represent an effective competitor to the Microsoft Operating System Products.

The Department of Justice and Microsoft have reached a tentative settlement of the United States vs. Microsoft antitrust lawsuit. It is widely believed that the proposed settlement does a very poor job and that it is critical that those of us who feel this way participate in the Tunney Act comment process.

Under a law known as the Tunney Act, the court is required to consider public commentary before accepting any settlement.

As you can imagine, many people have contacted me to ask for my help and input on the Microsoft case, and the Tunney Act proceeding in particular. I've met with attorneys here in Minnesota, as well as with the law firm that is handling the case for the states. I've spoken with wide range of people regarding this case.

My Shame

I have not yet submitted any comments to the Tunney Act comment process.

I haven't even really engaged myself in the problem, at least not beyond responding politely to those that call me.

Why this sucks

I'm probably the U.S. citizen most involved in the Wine project, and if I haven't acted, then who will?

I've heard a rumor that there are no shortage of comments from folks 'encouraged' by Microsoft. Apparently, there are also a number of Sun/Java encouraged comments. But not much else.

Bottom line: if we don't speak out now, we let Microsoft buy this one.

What we should do

Presumably, you're reading this page because you care as much as I do. If you're a U.S. citizen, now is the time to act. If you're not a U.S. citizen, forward this to a U.S. citizen you know.

It's easy. Here are two ways to help:

The easy way to do the 'right' thing

- 1.. Open an email window to microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov (with a subject of 'Microsoft Settlement').
- 2.. Read through some of the many comprehensive resources on this case and the Tunney Act proceedings:
 - a.. Dan Kegel's excellent collection of resources (mirror is [here](#)).
- 3.. Pick your favorite problem with the proposed judgement. One is fine; hopefully a lot of people will be doing this.
- 4.. Compose a simple, polite, email describing the problem and how you feel about it.
- 5.. Send the email, and if you like, bcc (important do not cc) us at tunney@codeweavers.com.
- 6.. [Optional, but nice] Print your letter out (maybe reformat it a little), and mail it to:

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

The truly easy way to at least add your voice

- 1.. Send email to microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov (with a subject of 'Microsoft Settlement') saying that you think the proposed settlement is bad idea (type only 3 words, if you must). What counts is the number of complaints.

- 2.. Send email to petition@kegel.com indicating that you will stand as a co signer of Dan Kegel's comments. Please give your city, state, title, and affiliation.

Send it now.

The comment period closes Monday morning (the 28th).

By the time you think to come back to this page, it will be too late.